

C O N F I D E N T I A L2nd April, 1960.COCOM Document No. 3939B
Revised.COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONDRAFTING IN FRENCH OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL LIST ITEMS28th March, 1960

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Doc. No. 3714.60/5 and Secretariat Paper No. 109.

1. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the study made by the Secretariat of the expressions most frequently used in the International List definitions (Secretariat Paper No. 109), stated that the case notified by the German Delegation in COCOM Doc. 3714.60/5 with respect to Item 1460 was not peculiar to that item alone but also occurred in other listed items, i.e. 1133(a) and (b); 1305(a)(2)(i); 1460(a)(i) and (ii); 1560(a) and (b); 1566(a) and (b); 1635(a)(1) and (2), (ii) and (3); 1648(b)(1) and (2), (2) and (3); 1781(a) and (b). In the French language definition of these items, the word "or" included in the English version did not appear. The Chairman explained that at the time the lists had been drafted in French, the practice had been not to include the word "ou" in French, when the various parts of an item were linked in the English version by the word "or" since it was taken as understood. This difference between the two versions which had been pointed out in the case of Item 1460 was not therefore due to an error in translation, but to a translation method sanctioned by practice. The Chairman accordingly asked if the Committee wished to limit the amendment agreed at the last meeting to Item 1460 alone, or to treat all the items listed above in the same manner.

2. The GERMAN Delegate thanked the Chairman for drawing the Committee's attention to this matter. He stated that the example provided by the French Delegation's request for Committee approval of an export which might have been effected freely clearly showed that misunderstandings might arise if the word "ou" were not added to the French version of the definitions. For his part, therefore, he hoped that every time the word "or" appeared in the English version of a definition, the word "ou" would be inserted in the appropriate place in the French text. The Delegate could thus but concur in any decision to amend all the items mentioned by the Chairman in an appropriate manner.

3. The FRENCH Delegate fully supported his German colleague's suggestion. Whether it was a question of an error in translation or merely an ^{erroneous} translation method sanctioned by practice, the Delegate stated that what mattered most was to translate the English texts into French or the French ones into English as clearly as possible, without relying upon mere implications. This was true not only for Item 1460, but for all the items where this drafting difference had been noted.

4. The COMMITTEE agreed to study the matter together with the proposals made by the German and French Delegates, on the 7th April.

C O N F I D E N T I A L